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it is regarded simply as the type of a family of ordinary lizards, whereas, by the best authorities, the group *Rynchocephalia* is regarded as a distinct order of reptiles of very primitive structure.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

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- Thompson, D. W.*—A bibliography of Protozoa, Coelenterata and worms, 1861–1885. Cambridge University press, 1885. From the publishers.
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- Trelease, Wm.*—Observations on several Zoöglœæ and related forms. Studies from the Johns Hopkins Biological Laboratory, 1885. From the editors.
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- Morse, E. S.*—Japanese homes and their surroundings. Ticknor & Co., 1886. From the author.
- Meynert, Th.*—Psychiatry; a clinical treatise on diseases of the fore-brain. Translated by B. Sachs, M.D. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1885. From the publishers.
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- Meyer, O.*—The genealogy and age of the species in the Southern Old Tertiary. Ext. Amer. Jour. de Science, Vol. xxx, 1885. From the author.
- Hennessy, H.*—On the comparative temperature of the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Ext. Philos. Mag., Nov. 1885.
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- Macdonald, C. C.*—A sermon on the relation of evolution to Christianity. Read at the meeting of the Brit. Assoc. Adv. Sci., Aberdeen, 1885. From the author.
- Müller, F.*—Vierter Nachtrag zum Catalog der herpetologischen Sammlung des Basler Museums, 1885. From the author.

- Lyiekker, R.*—Notes on the zoölogical position of the genus *Microchærus* Wood, and its apparent identity with *Hyopsodus* Leidy. Ext. Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., 1885. From the author.
- Sintzore, I.*—Carte géologique générale de la Russie. Feuille 93. Partie occidentale, Kamychin, 1885. From the author.
- Tschernyschew, T.*—Die Fauna des Untern Devon am West-Abhange des Urals, 1885. From the author.
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- Dames.*—Description of *Lericulina nættingi*. Sitz. d. Ge. Natur. Freunde zu Berlin, 1885. From the author.
- Barcena, M., and Perez, M.*—Estudios de Meteorologia comparada. Tomo I. Mexico, 1885. From the author.
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GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

ASIA—*The Rivers of the Punjab.*—An account of the rivers of the Punjab, by Gen. R. Macagan, occupies the first place in the November issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society. Though Punjab means "five waters," the more ancient name was the land of the seven rivers, the Indus on the one side, and the Saraswati on the other, being added to the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beás, and Sutlej. The Saraswati rises in the low outer hills of the Himalayan mountains, and is now an unimportant river, except in the season of flood, yet it is described in the ancient writings of the Hindus as a mighty river like the others. But the Punjab was the tract first occupied by the Aryan immigrants from the north, and it appears more probable that the ideas of the people concerning the river changed when they knew it

¹ This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.